

REMARKS

With the addition of new claim 42 and the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 21, claims 22 to 42 are currently pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 20 were previously canceled. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, PTO-1449 papers, and cited references.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 22, 32, 33, and 37 to 41 are allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that each of claims 22, 32, 33, 37 (from which claim 38 depends), and 39 (from which claims 40 and 41 depend) has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include the subject matter of its base claim and any intervening claim. The Examiner will further note that claims 23, 27 to 29, 34, and 35 have been amended herein without prejudice so that claims 23 to 31, and 34 to 36 ultimately depend from claim 22. Accordingly, all of claims 22 to 41 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claim has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejections.

New claim 42 has been added herein. Claim 42 does not add new matter and is supported by the present application, including specification, as filed. Claim 42 depends from claim 32 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons of claim 32.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 22 to 42 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 6, 2009

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